

AMIAA NEWS

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The Rev. Jirair Sogomian
Editor



**Christmas Program
at the
Armenian Evangelical Khoren & Shoushanig Avedisian Primary School
in
Yerevan, Armenia**

Entrusted With the Ministry of Reconciliation!

Jirair M. Sogomian

If there is a season in the Christian Year that is most overlooked and disregarded, it is the Season of Epiphany. Tucked as it is between the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent, this relatively short season is neglected by most Christians, partly because it starts with the feast of Epiphany which, with a fixed date of January 6, has often been preempted in the Armenian church with the celebration of the Armenian Christmas. Another reason for the sad neglect of this meaningful season of the manifestation of God's Christ as the Light which illumines the whole world, is that many churches do not follow the lectionary that celebrates the liturgical year of the church. It is therefore crucial that Christians lift up those events in the life of Jesus which are epiphanies or disclosures of Christ's true identity and mission to the whole world. Short of that, we are bound to lose the universality of the church's mission, and reduce our faith to a parochialism that denies the cosmic dimensions of the gospel!

One of the major epiphanic events in the life of Jesus is his baptism. It was at his baptism that Jesus was manifested by a voice from heaven as God's beloved Son, and received the confirmation of his calling. To this day, as we participate in the holy sacrament of baptism, we hear God calling us apart from the world to a life sanctified in Christ Jesus. This is a calling that every Christian believer must claim and share with Jesus!

There is a general sense in which a "call" is associated with one's life profession or vocation. There was a time when that general sense was made more specific, especially in certain professions - such as medicine, nursing, teaching and ministry - in which individuals engaged with total abandon to serve the basic and vital human needs without any consideration to monetary gain or a life of comfort. Since those professions called for great personal sacrifices and special dedication to human welfare, one was believed to have received a special "call" to be engaged in the healing, teaching or spiritual ministries. Unfortunately, today those standards have eroded and all but disappeared in some of those professions.

But there is another dimension of a "call," not based on professional skill or merit, in which all Christians must share. This is the higher calling we have all received from God when we were baptized in response to God's claim upon our lives. This is the calling which the Apostle Paul mentions in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, the fifth chapter, where he says that in Christ we are all ambassadors for Christ entrusted with the message of the gospel, for God makes his appeal through us.

There is a sense in which you and I, by virtue of our

faith-response to the gospel of Jesus Christ confirmed by our baptism, share the common calling of those who belong to Christ, who claim the Lordship of Christ in their lives, and exercise their mission by sharing their faith with those who have not heard the invitation of the gospel. To be Christ's ambassadors does not primarily imply that we are "professional," full time missionaries in a foreign land. It does not necessarily mean that we work for a missionary agency, or that we are sent by our church to a remote mission post. All it means is that we live with a sense of calling and purpose that is the result of an epiphany, a baptism of the Spirit — a lucid moment when the Holy Spirit manifested to us with dazzling clarity that God relies on us to represent Christ in all our human relationships, and live our lives with a sense of being on mission for God!

One is reminded of Michelangelo who could look at a block of marble and see within it an angel that no one else could see, and then set about releasing that angel imprisoned in the marble to make his vision come true. So it is with God who sees the partners and co-creators in the most unlikely marbles of us, issues a call to us and then through his grace makes that vision come true. It is when we share God's vision of us, accept God's call, and submit ourselves to be ambassadors for Christ that we fulfill our individual Christian calling to be God's missionaries in all that we say and do, relating to others - and especially to the least of us - as Christ would relate to them, and as if in them Christ comes to us. May this season of Epiphany provide you that "crystal moment" when you discover who you are in relation to God, and what your life is all about in Christ.□

Dedication of the Newly Purchased Social Service Center in Glendale

Phyllis Hamo

The Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center has come a long way since its meager beginnings in Hollywood in 1977. At the dedication ceremonies of its newly purchased Glendale, CA building on January 12, 2002, Rev. Jirair Sogomian, recalled writing the original \$15,000 grant proposal to the AMAA, at that time directed by Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian. The AMAA gave its blessings with the requested grant and the social service center was given birth in a tiny ten by ten office on Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood. A driving force during its infancy was Jimmy Koundakjian, someone who saw the need and had the enthusiasm to help Armenian immigrants.

Participating in the recent dedication were AESSC Executive Director Hagop Loussararian, AESSC Board Chairman Steve Surmeian, AEUNA Moderator Vahan Tootikian, Rev. Sogomian who brought "greetings on behalf of Andy Torigian and the AMAA," Louise Danelian who mentioned that her father, Stephen Philipbosian, "would have been thrilled," AESSC Program Director Nora Ashjian, Rev. Karl Avakian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, UACC Senior Pastor Rev. Ron Tovmassian, and musicians Raffi Kerbabian and Hovig Aloyan.

Under the leadership of its Executive Director Hagop Loussararian and its Board led by Chairman Steve Surmeian, the AESSC officially dedicated its new facility with a program and reception celebrating 25 years of service to the Armenian Community in Southern California. Mr. Loussararian, the Center's Director for the past nine years, gave the "glory to God" for success of the Center. He thanked "all who have served on the Board, past and present" and expressed appreciation to his wife Arsha for her lifetime of support, patience and encouragement. Among the guests were former Chairpersons of the AESSC Board Rita Tilkian, Grace Kurkjian, Kay Zoolalian, and Stepan Baghdassarian. Previous Directors mentioned in the program were Zabel Alahydoian (1988-1992), Roseann Saliba



Newly purchased AESSC Glendale Building (above); (r to l) Hagop Loussararian, Rev. Jirair Sogomian, Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, Steve Surmeian and Rev. Karl Avakian cut the ribbon at AESSC Glendale Dedication.

(1984-1988), and Hratch Baliozian (1977-1984).

The AESSC with a \$2,000,000 budget this year has grown from a one-person office to a staff of 25. It is supported by carefully documented contracts and by the AMAA, Lincy Foundation, Stephen Philipbosian Foundation, and AEUNA. It serves the Armenian community with 3,000 square feet of rented space in Hollywood and an additional 7,000 square feet of space in the new building at 611 E. Colorado St., Glendale, CA.

Members of the Board serving presently are Chairman Surmeian, Vice Chair Suzie Phillips, Treasurer Dr. Nazareth Darakjian,

Kevork Berberian, Dr. Ani Derdarian, Rev. Krikor Haleblan, Rev. Ron Tovmassian, Zarouhi Jamgotchian, Joyce Stein, Angele Janbazian, and Rev. Kevork Terian.

The Hollywood location was founded to serve many immigrant Armenians arriving primarily from the Middle East. Following the devastating earthquake in 1988 thousands of Armenian refugees emigrated to the U.S. and many settled in Hollywood, but over time the demographics shifted from Hollywood to Glendale, now home to the largest population of Armenians outside of Armenia. Among the programs offered by the Center are job placement, Certified Nurses Aid Training, and a Prison Ministry. □

Christmas Cheer for Thousands of Armenia Children

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been bringing Christmas cheer to thousands of Armenia children since the early nineties.

Although Armenians have a rich Christian heritage, seventy years of Atheistic Communist rule has wiped out Christmas observances from most people. Under communism, January 6 (Christmas day for Armenians) was not a holiday. People did not know what Christmas was. As one middle-aged Christian man put it, "I first heard about Christmas in my mid-twenties, but did not know what holiday it was until many years later when I started attending church".

Christmas is a national holiday now, when schools and government offices are closed. Legislation however does not inspire faith, neither can it change customs and attitudes. Most businesses are kept open on Christmas day and most people still go about their regular daily activities.

AMAA Armenia Christmas programs aim at two things: bring holiday joy to thousands of children most of whom have little else to be cheerful about during Christmas and New Year; and second, teach the children about Christmas and its message of hope in God's love.

This year, AMAA Armenia organized 62 Christmas programs in 53 towns and villages throughout Armenia and Karabagh. 16,000 children received gifts on Christmas during programs that were attended by well over 25,000 children and their parents. The programs included a drama presentation of interest to children, songs by children choirs, Santa-Claus visit, games and other surprises. Most important though, they and their parents were offered the Christmas message to ponder. At the end of the program, each child received a gift package which besides candies, small toys and stationary had children's Bible and the Christmas issue of "Shoghik", the only children's quarterly that writes about religious, moral and national themes and is published by the AMAA.

In many towns the AMAA received great appreciation and commendation by local authorities for the quality of the programs.

They acknowledged the dedication of the AMAA staff and volunteers.

The Karabagh team held programs in 6 towns including Shoushi, Mardouni and Martakert. AMAA is one of only two organizations distributing Christmas gifts to children. Despite limited resources, over 2500 gifts were distributed. In Shoushi, that has an estimated population of 4000, four hundred children and parents attended AMAA's Christmas program.

In Yerevan, the drama entitled "My Heavenly King" was presented at the prestigious 600-seat theater named after Stanislavsky. The drama was presented 5 times. Despite the severe cold, over 3,000





children and adults attended. The same drama was presented in Spitak (epicenter of the devastating earthquake). The story touched many in the audience and others who heard about it.

In many cities, the presentations were covered by the local media – newspapers and television. The Yerevan presentation received

coverage on the daily news broadcast of National TV and other private TV stations.

These Christmas programs are coordinated by AMAA Armenia office staff and supervised by AMAA representatives in Armenia - Rev. Rene Leonian and Mr. Harout Nercessian. The Christmas gift packages were collected or purchased through

the generous contributions of AMAA members and friends through the efforts of AMAA's Orphan/Child Care and Summer Camp & Christmas Committees. The generosity of the donors indeed brought Christmas cheer to thousands of children in our homeland Armenia and Karabagh once again this year. □

Nursing Home No. 1 in Yerevan Has New Laundry Room



The Laundry Room - Before

Last year, the Missions Committee of the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Pramus, NJ raised enough funds to benefit mission work in Armenia, mainly the Nursing Home No. 1 of Yerevan where Sister Hanna Christen, a German missionary is serving for the past three years to the elderly with her Christian love, care and devotion as the missionary of the AMAA. Sister Hanna suggested to use part of these funds to purchase much needed washers and dryers for the Home.

In her letter dated January 3, 2002, Sister Hanna writes: "...After

the two washers and the dryer have been installed, I was working with the women a whole day long to teach them how to use those new machines. It was funny to see their faces when they saw that the washers are doing everything, including rinse and spin.

The dryer is a great help and arrived at the right time, because the winter came very early with much snow and rain.

I am glad that with the help of believers in Holland we could also renovate the laundry room. Again and again thank you for all your help which encourages me to go with the good work among our hayrigs and mayrigs (grandpas and grandmas)." □



And After

Boston Area Orphan & Child Care Committee's Fund Raiser - A Resounding Success

The Seventh Annual Luncheon Fundraiser to benefit the Armenian Missionary Association of America Orphan and Child Care Program took place Wednesday, October 17, 2001, at the Wellesley Country Club in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Twenty-one talented hostesses adorned the ballroom and their tables with creative, child-oriented centerpieces which were silently auctioned during the event.

A live auction also took place with Mike Wankum – Meteorologist for WB56 WLVI TV as guest auctioneer. His touch, sense of humor and masterful skills resulted in a fun filled and competitive auction.

As in the past, this event was a resounding success and \$58,666.00 was raised to help the neediest of children in Armenia.

No event such as this one can be success-



ful without the generosity of the hostesses, their guests and the hard work of the AMAA

Orphan and Child Care Committee of Boston chaired by Michele Simourian. □

Young Women Join The AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee

At their November meeting, the AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee felt the need to start preparing for the next generation to assume some of their responsibilities. To that effect, they decided to invite the young women of the local Armenian Presbyterian Church community to an informal Christmas dinner on December 4, 2001. They enjoyed a delicious meal and took the opportunity to describe to them the projects they are responsible for, and to find out if they would be interested to work along with the committee with their youthful creativity and energy.

AMAA president Mr. Andy Torigian was present. Rev. Jirair Sogomian explained the challenges the committee confronts in the Summer Camps, DVBSs, Christmas Joy Packages and Kindergarten projects the AMAA has undertaken in Armenia. A lively and interesting dialogue ensued. The enthusiasm and willingness of the seven young women who attended was most encourag-



ing. Despite the hectic holiday schedules, all the committee members made this a priority event and were present.

The AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp

and Christmas Committee looks forward to greater achievements with these united efforts and thank God for all the gifted persons He has blessed them with. □

Rev. Karl Avakian, Minister to AEUNA Visits the Church in Sao Paulo, Brazil

On the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia, the 155th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the 74th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Sao Paulo several programs were held throughout the year 2001. Special events were organized in November 2001 in Sao Paulo, Brazil during the visit of Rev. Karl Avakian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and Mrs. Louisa Janbazian, wife of the late Rev. Movses Janbazian. On Thursday, November 8, with the pastor of the church, Rev. Dimitri Prodromos Constantinidis, they visited the mission center of the church in Ferraz de Vasconcelos, a distant suburb of Sao Paulo, where on a weekly basis, Sunday services, weekday meetings, Bible studies and Sunday School classes are held. About 100, mostly local Brazilians attend these activities. Food and other items are also distributed on a weekly basis.

On Friday, November 9, a special program was held in the Hall of the Armenian Center in memory of Rev. Movses Boghos Janbazian, who was the pastor of the church in Sao Paulo from 1973-1980. One hundred eighty people were present including Mr.

Ashod Yeghyazarian, the General Consul of Armenia, Mr. Armen Hagopian, the Vice Consul of Armenia, Dr. Varujan Burmayan, Brazil's Ambassador to Armenia and other civic and ecclesiastical leaders. Dr. Burmayan and Rev. Avakian were the main speakers, both reminiscing about Rev. Janbazian. Mrs. Janbazian was honored for the love and productive service rendered during the Janbazians' ministry in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The program also included a piano concert by Liza Kechichian, a few songs in Armenian and Portuguese, presented by the Mardrigal Coros Angelicos Singers directed by Hildalea Galdzakian, and a special program by the students of the AGBU school.

On Sunday, November 11, Rev. Avakian officiated the ordination of Roy Abrahamian, M.D.

On Tuesday, November 13, a "Missions Tea" was hosted by the ladies of the church for the community. Around 100 ladies were present. Louisa Janbazian, spoke eloquently and effectively through a slide presentation about the mission of AMAA in Armenia, specially the summer camps in Armenia and Karabagh. Pledges for the AMAA's Armenia Summer Camp project were received.

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The Ordination of Dr. Roy Abrahamian in Brazil



On Sunday, November 12, 2001, during the morning worship service, the ordination of Dr. Roy Abrahamian was held in the Armenian Evangelical Central Church of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Officiating at the ceremony was Rev. Karl Avakian, the minister to AEUNA, along with the Pastor of the Church Rev. Dimitri Prodromos Constantinidis. Participating in the ordination were also 6 other Armenian and Brazilian pastors. It was a beautiful and solemn service. The music included congregational singing, a trio, the choir and a male quartet. Rev. Karl Avakian brought greetings both from the AEUNA and the AMAA, and gave a brief charge to Drs. Roy and Gracy Abrahamian. It was a time of celebration and praise, attended by about 250 members of the church and the community at large, including church and Armenian organization delegates.

Rev. Roy Abrahamian, M.D. was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1967. He is the son of Mimi and the late Vahe Abrahamian. He is a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Sao Paulo and completed his residency in 1995 specializing in pediatrics. In 1988 he started taking courses from the Baptist Seminary and graduated in 1996. In 1999 he was licensed as pastor and since then he has been serving as the assistant pastor of the church.

Rev. Abrahamian is married to Gracy Gazebyukian Abrahamian, D.D.S. and they have one daughter, Gabriela who is 2 years old. □



Dr. Varujan Burmayan, Brazil's Ambassador to Armenia; Rev. Avakian offering the prayer at Dr. Roy Abrahamian's ordination.

Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus Erects a Khachkar on the Occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of Armenian Christianity

On the occasion of the 1700th Anniversary of Armenia's Proclamation of Christianity as state religion, the Armenian Presbyterian Church (APC) of Paramus unveiled a Khachkar on the church grounds on December 28, 2001.

More than 200 church members and guests were present for the unveiling and dedication of the Khachkar, which was preceded by a celebratory concert featuring students of the Julliard School. Rev. Karl Avakian, Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, who was serving as guest minister of APC, officiated the dedication.

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE KHACHKAR

We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; ... persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Եւ ինչո՞ւ պիտի չհպարտանանք,
Կա՛նք, պիտի լինե՛նք, եւ դեռ...

շատանանք: (Պ. Սեւակ)

And why shouldn't we be proud, We are, we shall be, and become... many.
(B. Sevag)



THE INSCRIPTION ON THE BOTA PAQUE

On this 1700th Anniversary of Armenian Christianity, we dedicate this Khachkar in memory of our forefathers who kept the faith throughout the centuries and the 15 million Armenians who perished during the first Genocide of the 20th century.
Armenian Presbyterian Church
October 28, 2001

Celebration Concert in Fresno On the 1700th Anniversary of Christian Armenia

The Jubilant Celebration concert dedicated to the 1700th Anniversary of Armenia's adoption of Christianity in 301 took place on Saturday, November 17 at the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church (PACC) of Fresno, CA. This event was hosted by PACC and the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC), under the auspices of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) spearheaded by Edward and Roseann Saliba, with active cooperation of a joint committee.

The concert was well attended by both congregations, as well as by members of the community. Following words of welcome by Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Pastor of PACC and a prayer by Rev. Sam Albarian, associate pastor of FAPC, the joint choir of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of Southern California presented a most inspiring panorama of the Christian heritage through sharagans and hymns under the competent leadership of multi-gifted conductor, Mr. Hrant Agbabian and equally qualified organist, Mrs. Martha Sarian.

A 1700 Anniversary address was given by Justice Steven Vartabedian. The program concluded with the benediction by Rev. Karl Avakian, Minister to the AEUNA and the singing of the Doxology.

A reception followed in the Fellowship Hall brought this very special celebration to a close.

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At the end, Rev. Avakian gave a short message.

On Wednesday, November 14, Rev. Avakian and Mrs. Janbazian, accompanied by some members of the church visited the Armenian Home for the Aged, a project of *Hye Oknoutian Mioutyun* (Armenian Relief Society). All three Armenian communities - Apostolic, Catholic and Evangelical - support this project. Rev. Avakian visited with each resident, expressed his joy for visiting them and prayed for them.

Rev. Avakian and Louisa Janbazian, accompanied by the members of the Arme-

nian Evangelical Church, had an audience with Archbishop Datev Gharibian, the prelate of the Sao Paulo diocese, as well as the parish priest and school principal. The Armenian Catholic church was also visited.

During his week-long visit, Rev. Avakian also had several official and unofficial meetings with the leaders of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Sao Paulo, as well as with Rev. Enoch Elmasian, the pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Buenos Aires, Argentina, who had come to Sao Paulo to participate in the ordination service of Dr. Roy Abrahamian.

An Article, written by the Rev. Dr. Krikor Haleblan, on "Pagan Elements in Armenian Christianity: A case for Contextualization" has recently appeared in the Swiss Journal on Missiology, "New Review of Missionary Science."

Those interested in this 16 page article may look it up in their university libraries, or order a copy from the Rev. Dr. Haleblan at 534 Eaton Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107. Donation per copy: \$10.00.

AMAA's Vice President, Peter Kougasian Captivates UACC Audience with Banquet Faith

Phyllis Hamo

AMAA's Vice President, Peter Kougasian, journeyed cross country from his home in New York to Los Angeles where he captivated the October 28 audience of the United Armenian Congregational Church's 38th Anniversary Banquet '1700 Years of Faith' in the Deukmejian Ballroom of the Ararat Home. He had researched his subject well, giving a unique account of the events which led to King Drtad's declaration of Christianity as Armenia's national religion in 301 AD.

Banquet chairman Arthur Avazian played a dual role as the evening's master of ceremonies. He introduced Rev. Ron Tovmassian who offered the invocation after a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives in the World Trade Center on September 11.

A comprehensive state of the church report was given by church Moderator Louis Kurkjian. The musicians of the evening, were Sarkis and Aroussiak Baltaian who played

Kachadourian's Lullabys and Sabre Dance. In showing their solidarity with New Yorkers, they also played Gershwin's music from Porgy and Bess dedicating it to those fighting abroad.

The annual Trustees award was presented to Steve and Asien Surmeian, long time members and supporters of the church. Steve has held the positions of Moderator, Deacon, Treasurer and Trustee. He is Board Chairman of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center and is Co-Editor of the Ararat Hyelights, published quarterly by the Ararat Home of Los Angeles. Asien, an art teacher, is the founding advisor of the Young



(l to r) Asien and Steve Surmeian, Peter Kougasian, Arthur & Lisa Avazian.

Women's Circle, a position she has held for 16 years. She is president of the Ladies Aid and past coordinator of the World Day of Prayer.

Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian who gave praises for a wonderful evening, commended the speaker and musicians, then offered the benediction.□

Capital District Church Celebrated 1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia and 95th Anniversary of the Church in Troy, NY

On the occasion of two historic milestones, the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church of Troy, NY, dedicated the entire day of September 30, 2001 to celebrate the 1700th Anniversary of Christianity in Armenia and the 95th Anniversary of the Church. Dr. Cynthia Berberian Hale was the guest speaker during the morning worship service and gave a powerful message on Evangelization of the world.

The celebrations of the day culminated with a banquet, at which time nearly 200 guests and friends gathered to enjoy a time of celebration, reminiscing and Christian Fellowship.

The master of ceremonies were Harry Mikhitarian and Charles Kayajian. Dr. Cynthia Hale spoke about the orphanages

in Armenia and emphasized the importance of sharing the Good News of the Gospel with our kinsmen in Armenia.

A musical program was presented by accomplished soloist Sylvia Kutchukian. There were also presentations and proclamations from the mayor of the city, as well as from United States Congress.

Rev. Dr. Mihran Kupeyan, the pastor of the church concluded the evening's program with a stirring message of encouragement and a challenge to build upon the foundation of our forefathers.□



Dr. Cynthia Berberian Hale, the guest speaker and Rev. Kupeyan (sitting) the pastor of the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church in Troy, NY.

AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program in the Middle East

Since 1946, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) has been operating a Child Sponsorship Program in the Armenian communities of Lebanon, Syria and Greece. This program which now reaches to over 1500 children, is geared to helping children of needy families acquire an education in a Christian environment. In the last issue of the AMAA NEWS we featured two testimonies from the many beneficiaries of the AMAA's Child Sponsorship Program, who are now active leaders in their own communities. The following is yet two more testimonies of such people who remain grateful to those in the AMAA who believed that supporting the educational journey of an Armenian child in the Middle East is to prepare for a better future for Armenians and the communities they live in.

Name: Vartoug Balekjian

Position: President's Secretary of Haigazian University

Ministry: Member of CE Executive Committee and Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church Board of Trustees; Sunday School Superintendent of Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church

School where scholarship was granted: Arm. Evangelical Social Center School, Trad

My father had an evangelical education in the Shemlan orphanage, and wanted the same kind of education for his 4 children. So we attended the Arm. Evangelical School of Trad Social Center, an elementary school for poor kids in our poor neighborhood. There we heard about Jesus and loved Him. He stayed with us all these years. The AMAA, stayed with us too, through my sponsors (unknown by name) throughout the years I was attending first the Trad school and then the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian-Tatigian Secondary School.



I'd like to mention an indirect contribution of AMAA, which was as important as the direct one for my spiritual growth. The AMAA helps the Christian Endeavor Union, especially in the summer camps domain. And I've served the Lord as the secretary of the CE Beirut office, as a member of the CE Executive Committee (up to this date) and as a camp leader for various age groups (in Lebanon, Syria and Armenia). And CE camps do help people grow spiritually.

At present I'm the President's secretary at Haigazian University and I believe that the Lord will show many more possibilities of service to Him."

Name: Rita Lao

Position: Social Worker at Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center

Ministry: Member of CE Executive Committee

School where scholarship was granted: Armenian Evangelical College

The sixteen years (1981-1997) I spent in the Armenian Evangelical College in Beirut, Lebanon, occupy a significant place in my memory. As I look back, I can see the immeasurable sacrifices of many, without whose efforts it would have been difficult for me to guarantee such a special quality education, which includes not only academic knowledge, but spiritual as well. Difficulties and obstacles were many, added by the war situation in Lebanon, and by its negative effects on my family's situation. My father, being Chinese and not having Lebanese citizenship, had difficulty finding a job. As for my mother, who was an Armenian, taking care of three little daughters in time of war wasn't easy. Later she was taken away for psychiatric treatment and my sisters and I were left with my aunt. By the time my father managed to return to Lebanon, my mother got very sick and passed away in 1994 of cancer. However, in those times of need, the Lord used His ambassadors as instruments of support and relief.



I consider this a special opportunity for me to express my gratitude and appreciation to the AMAA, specifically for playing an active role in my life. I can say the investment has had a lifetime effect; as the Lord guides me.

UPDATE - Armenian Evangelical Schools in Syria

There are six Armenian/Syriac Evangelical Schools in Syria (including Aleppo College) - three in Aleppo, one in Damascus and one in Kessab. Since early 1930's, the AMAA is and has been a partner in the educational ministry of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches both in Syria and Lebanon, and has played a major role from the date each school was founded. In some cases the AMAA has purchased the land, in other cases has supported building projects, in others has provided equipment and in all cases provided scholarship to needy students.

The following is a brief update on the

Armenian Evangelical Schools in Syria.

1. Governmental Award: During the academic year 2000-2001, the Kindergarten of the United Armenian Evangelical School (Bethel) of Aleppo experienced many changes. The Kindergarten was furnished and computers were integrated in the learning process of the children. This was a unique move in the whole country. Therefore, the Syrian Ministry of Education awarded the United Armenian Evangelical School of Aleppo with a Letter of Appreciation as one of the two best schools in Aleppo.

2. Renovation: All the school buildings have grown old and desperately need renovation.

The United Armenian Evangelical School of Aleppo and the Armenian Evangelical School of Kessab were partially renovated.

There is great need for the renovation of desks and the establishment of computer laboratories.

2. Teachers' Conference: September 11-13, 2001 was a special time for 30-35 teachers who met for the first time in many years to receive teacher-training workshops.

3. Enrollment: As a result of all the efforts towards modernizing, renovating and mobilizing the schools, enrollment went up especially in the United School, which expects to have a full Kindergarten this year. □

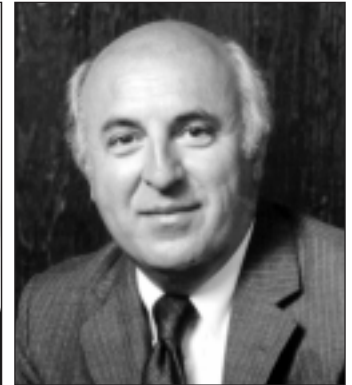
AMAA Elects Board Members and Officers

The Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), at its meeting of December 15, 2001, reelected Andrew Torigian of Paramus, NJ, as the President of the Association for the unprecedented fifth consecutive term.

Each year the AMAA mails out ballots to its members for the election of one-third of its Board of Directors. The membership, in turn, elects AMAA Board members to serve three-year terms. The newly-constituted Board then proceeds to appoint the officers of the AMAA for the coming year.

This year (2001) five incumbents were re-elected to the Board and three new members were added. Those elected were Dr. Hrair Steven Aharonian of Northridge, CA; Ara Balian of Watertown, MA; Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji of Havertown, PA; Mardie Juskalian of Philadelphia, PA; Herair Mouradian of Tarzana, CA; JeanMarie Papelian of Salem, NH; Alan George Philibosian of Oradell, NJ; Dr. Jack H. Sheen of Santa Barbara, CA and Eileen Chopourian Stephey of Havertown, PA. The new members are Hrair Steven Aharonian, Rev. Peter Doghramji; Herair Mouradian and Eileen Chopourian Stephey.

The new officers of the AMAA for the coming year are: Andrew Torigian, (President) of Paramus, NJ; Robert Hekemian, Sr. (Vice President of Saddle River, NJ; Peter Kougasian, Esq. (Vice President) of Pelham Manor, NY; George Phillips, Sr., Esq. (Vice President) of Los Angeles, CA; Aram Robert Minnetian (Treasurer) of Hoboken, NJ; David Hekemian (Assistant Treasurer) of HoHoKus, NJ; Harry Dulgarian (Co-Recording Secretary) of Belmont, MA; Lawrence Kalfayan, Esq. (Co-Recording Secretary) of Glendale, CA; and Eileen Chopourian Stephey (Co-Recording Secretary) of Havertown, NJ. □



Andrew Torigian, AMAA President, Robert Hekemian, Sr., AMAA Vice President, Peter Kougasian, Esq., AMAA Vice President and George Phillips, Esq., AMAA Vice President

Street Named in Anjar, Lebanon, in Memory of Rev. Janbazian

A special memorial program was held on the first anniversary of the passing of Rev. Movses Janbazian on Saturday, November 10, 2001 at the intersection leading to the Armenian Evangelical Church of his hometown, Anjar (Lebanon).

The program was organized by the Educational Committee of the town of Anjar to honor the memory of this longtime worker of the Armenian Evangelical community and devoted servant of the Armenian people and the Armenian Case.

Present at the program were Rev. Dr. John Khanjian, chairman of the Central Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East; representatives of responsible bodies of the Lebanese Armenian Evangelical community; representatives of the three Armenian denominations; members of the Central Committee of the ARF

of Lebanon, the mayors of Bourdj Hammoud and Anjar, representatives of various organizations, and a large crowd which had assembled from Anjar and Beirut.

Speaking on behalf of the Educational Committee of the Anjar branch of the ARF, Yesayi Havatian stated that this initiative was designed to show appreciation for Rev. Janbazian's national and religious activity. Moreover, in cooperation with the municipal authorities of Anjar, it was decided to name a street after Rev. Janbazian.

The unveiling of the new street sign was conducted by Rev. Khanjian, Anjar mayor Sebouh Sekayian, and Rev. Janbazian's sisters, Marie Janbazian-Sarmazian and Sona Janbazian-Koujanian. Following the unveiling ceremony, the crowd headed for Hedwig Hall of the Armenian Evangelical Church, where a special program took place. □



ԱԶԱՏՈՒԹԻՒՆ՝ ՆԱՀԱՏԱԿՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՀԱՄԱՐ ԵՒ ՆԱՀԱՏԱԿՈՒԹԻՒՆ՝ ԱԶԱՏՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՀԱՄԱՐ (Վարդանանցի առթիւ)

Վեր. Պարգեւ Ն. Տարազեան

Ազատութեան համար նահատակութիւնը կը խանդավառէ պետութիւններն ու ազգերը, մարտունակ ժողովուրդներն ու իտէալիստ երիտասարդները:

«Ազատութիւն կամ մահ» մարտակոչը դարերով յանկերգը դարձած է մեր հայ քաղաքական կուսակցութիւններուն, յեղափոխականներուն ու ցեղային արժանապատուութեան զգացումի տէր մեր ժողովուրդին: Ու մենք հպարտ ենք մեր քաջարի ու ազնուագոյն զգացումներով տոգորուած մարտիրոսներով որոնք հայ ժողովուրդի ու հայրենիքի սէրն ու ազատութիւնը երգելով ինկան կոռուի դաշտերուն վրայ կամ եղեռնագործներու եաթաղանին ներքեւ:

Ազատութիւն կամ մահ: Ու ասիկա՝ անխուսափելիօրէն: Քանի որ համոզուած ենք որ ազատութենէ զրկուած մեր կեանքը համագործ է մահուան: Լոկ ֆիզիքական գոյութեան քաշկընտուքը հաւասար գետնի վրայ կը դնէ մեզ անբան անասուններու հետ: Ոսպապուրի համար իր արժանապատուութիւնը վաճառքի հանող մէկը իրաւունք չունի ապրելու եւ մարդոց կարգին անցնելու:

Ու վարդանանք՝ առաջին հերթին՝ այս նշմարութիւնը շեփորեցին ճակատամարտէն առաջ եւ ճակատամարտի ընթացքին եւ որուն արձագանքը դարերու ընդմէջէն հասան մեզի՝ Նոր Աւարայրներ կանգնելով:

* * *

Այսօր յստակ է ու ապացուցուած պատմական դէպքերով: Ինչ որ տարտամ ու անիմանալի կը մնայ մեզի համար՝ խորագիրին առաջին մասն է՝ այսինքն, ազատութիւն՝ նահատակութեան համար:

Արդեօք կարելի՞ է մէկու մը համար նահատակութեան ճամբան բռնել առանց ձերբազատուած ըլլալու երեւելի եւ կամ աներեւոյթ կաշկանդումներէ: Դիւրի՞նք է կին, ամուսին, զաւակներ կամ հայր ու մայր ունեցող անձերու համար նահատակութիւնը ընտրել...: Գոյութեան կան ի՞նչ տագնապալի պահեր, «գանկի մէջ փոքորիկ»ներ կ'ունենան անոնք որոնք

կը լսեն կոռուի, պատերազմի կանչը, երբ մանաւանդ նոր ընտանիք կազմած են եւ կը գուրգուրան իրենց նորածին սրտահատորներուն վրայ...: Ու այս բոլորին մէջ նահատակուելու ազատութիւնը ընտրել կը նշանակէ գերբնական ընտրութիւն մը, որոշում մը՝ գերագոյն նպատակի համար:

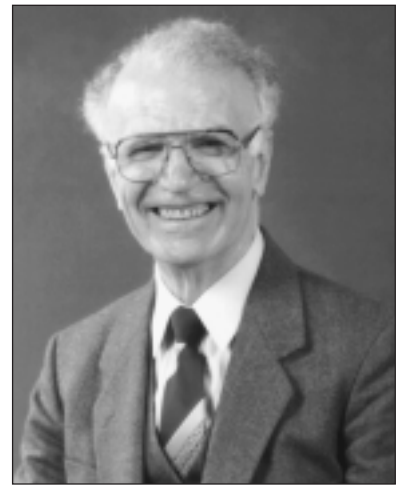
Տակաւին կայ պատկերին միւս կողմը: Ազատութիւնը՝ նահատակուելու համար՝ կ'ենթադրէ ազատ ըլլալ անձնական փառասիրութենէ, նիւթական շահերէ, միսի ու զգայարաններու հեշտանքէ, Մաքիաւելական հաշիւներէ, եւլն: Ու ասոնք են Վասակի դէմ արձանագրուած մեղադրանքները:

Վարդան, ի հեռուկա արտաքին ու ներքին կաշկանդումներու, կ'ընտրէ ազատութիւնը՝ նահատակութեան ճամբան բռնելու որպէսզի գերագոյն ու վերջնական ազատութեան տիրանան ինք ու իր ժողովուրդը: Իսկ Վասակ այնքան շոթայուած է արտաքին ու ներքին ազդակներով որ անկարելի կը դառնայ իրեն համար նահատակութեան ճամբան բռնել «Վասն Քրիստոսի, վասն հայրենեաց»:

Ու այս է մեղքը Վասակին, նաեւ այն բոլորին որոնք «Ո՛չ» կը պատասխանեն գերագոյն ազատութեան եւ սուրբ նահատակութեան կոչին: Ու այս է նաեւ պատգամը Տէր Յիսուսի երբ կ'ըսէ «Վասնզի ի՞նչ կը շահի մարդ եթէ ամբողջ աշխարհը վաստկի բայց իր անձը կորսնցնէ»:

Ազատութեան համար նահատակուիլը կը պահանջէ խոր ըմբռնում մը ազատութեան իմաստին, ինչ որ իրապէս ազատ կը դարձնէ անձը՝ նահատակուելու համար:

Նահատակութիւն՝ ազատութեան համար, սակայն նախ ազատութիւն՝ նահատակուելու համար: □



Վեր. Գարլ Աւագեանի Պրագիլ այցելութիւնը եւ Տօթ. Ռոյ Արրահամեանի Չեռնադրութիւնը

Անցեալ տարուայ ընթացքին, Սան Փաուլոյի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցին կարգ մը ձեռնարկներ կազմակերպած էր Հայ Գրիստոնէութեան 1700րդ, Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին 155րդ եւ իրենց եկեղեցիին 74րդ տարեդարձներուն առթիւ: Յատուկ հանդիսութիւններ մահւ կազմակերպուած էին Նոյեմբեր ամսուան ընթացքին երբ Վեր. Գարլ Աւագեան՝ Հիւսիսային Ամերիկայի Հայ Աւետարանական Միութեան Հովիւը, եւ Տիկին Լուիզա Ճանսպեան՝ Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանսպեանի տիկինը Պրագիլ կ'այցելէին մասնակցելու այս հանդիսութիւններուն:

Հինգշաբթի, Նոյեմբեր 8-ին, տեղւոյն հովիւին՝ Վեր. Տիմիթրի Գոնսթանթինիտիսի ընկերակցութեամբ անոնք այցելեցին Սան Փաուլոյի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցւոյ Աւետարանական կեդրոնը՝ Ֆերրազ Գիւլաֆաղաֆին մէջ եւ մասնակցեցան շաբաթամիջի պաշտամունքին:

Ուրբաթ, Նոյեմբեր 9-ի երեկոյեան անոնք մերկայ գտնուեցան յատուկ յայտագրի մը որ կազմակերպուած էր Սան Փաուլոյի Հայ Կեդրոնին մէջ ի յիշատակ Վեր. Մովսէս Ճանսպեանի՝ որ հովիւն էր տեղւոյն Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին 1973-1980 տարիներուն: Վեր. Աւագեան եւ Դոկտ. Վարուժան Պուրմայեան (Պրագիլի Դեսպանը Հայաստանի) օրուան գլխաւոր խօսնակներն էին: Անոնք մեծ սիրով յիշեցին Վեր. Ճանսպեանը ու անոր մատուցած հոգեւոր ու ազգանուէր ծառայութիւնները:

Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 11-ին Սան Փաուլոյի Հայ Աւետարանական Եկեղեցիին արաւօտեան պաշտամունքի ընթացքին տեղի ունեցաւ Տօթ. Ռոյ Արրահամեանի ձեռնադրութիւնը Վեր. Աւագեանի հովանաւորութեամբ: Տօթ. Արրահամեան իր բժշկական ծառայութեան կողմէն մասնակի ժամանակով Աստուածաբանական դասընթացներու հետեւած է եւ Աստուածաբանական Ճեմարանէն շրջանաւարտ եղած է 1996-ին: 1999-ին Եկեղեցին իրեն տուած է իր Բարոզութեան



Վեր. Աւագեան Ֆերրազի Հայ Աւետարանական Կեդրոնին մէջ:

արտօնութիւնը եւ անկէ ի վեր մասնակի ժամանակով կը ծառայէ Եկեղեցիին որպէս օգնական հովիւ:

Երեքշաբթի, Նոյեմբեր 13-ին, Եկեղեցիի Տիկնանց Միութիւնը կազմակերպած էր «Բարեսիրական Թեյասեղան» մը որուն մերկայ էին շուրջ 100 տիկիններ: Տիկին Ճանսպեան սահիկներու միջոցով իրենց մերկայացուց Հայ Աւետարանականի գործը Հայաստանի եւ Ղարաբաղի ամառնային ճամբարներուն մէջ: Տեղւոյն վրայ յատուկ նուիրատուութիւններ եղան Ամառնային ճամբարներու համար: Յայտագրի վերջաւորութեան Վեր. Աւագեան խրախուսիչ պատգամ մը տուաւ մերկաներուն:

Վեր. Աւագեան եւ Տիկին Ճանսպեան, Եկեղեցւոյ կարգ մը անդամներու ընկերակցութեամբ այցելեցին մահւ Հայ Առաքելական ու Հայ Կաթողիկէ Եկեղեցիները, ինչպէս մահւ Սան Փաուլոյի Հայ Տունը:

Իր մէկ շաբթուան այցելութեան ընթացքին, Վեր. Աւագեան մահւ պաշտօնական եւ անպաշտօն հանդիպումներ ունեցաւ Եկեղեցիի առաջնորդներուն հետ: □

Ֆրեզնոյի Առաջին Հայ Երիցական Եկեղեցին 13 Երիտասարդներ Կը Ղրկէ Հայաստան Ծառայութեան համար

Անցեալ ամառ Ֆրեզնոյի Առաջին Հայ Երիցական Եկեղեցին Վեր. Սէմ Ալպարեանի գլխաւորութեամբ տասը երիտասարդ-երիտասարդուհիներ եւ երեք առաջնորդներ ղրկեց Հայաստան աշխատելու Ամառնային հոգեւոր ճամբարներու մէջ: Այցելութիւնը երկկողմանի էր՝ հոգեւոր ծառայութիւն մատուցանել մեր հայրենիքին եւ միեւնոյն ժամանակ աւելի մօտենալ հայկական արմատներուն, ժողովուրդին ու մշակոյթին:

Խումբը Հայաստան հասաւ ամառուան ամէնէն տաք շրջանին եւ անմիջապէս գործի լծուեցաւ՝ իրենց ծառայութիւնը բերելով Սուրբ Գրոց ճամբարներուն մէջ որոնք ծրագրուած էին Հայ Աւետարանական Ընկերակցութեան կողմէ՝ Վեր. Ռոնէ Լեւոնեանի եւ Պրմ. Յարութ Ներսէսեանի ղեկավարութեամբ: Անոնք իրենց աշխատանքը կեդրոնացուցին յատկապէս Թալին Բաղաֆի մէջ գտնուող



նորակազմ Եկեղեցիին: Տեղական առաջնորդ խումբին միանալով անոնք երկու շաբաթներ ծառայեցին Թալինի, ինչպէս մահւ Թալինէն 10 վայրկեան հեռու գտնուող ներքին գիւղի մը մէջ: □

Mary Markarian

Mary Markarian passed away on September 30, 2001. She was born on December 10, 1919 in Jerusalem, the fourth child of Tavitt and Victoria Ohannessian.

Mary was born at the time her family lived in the Vank or convent section of Jerusalem. Her brothers and sisters, eventually there were seven of them, were Sirapi, Vahe, Ohanness, Garo, PHEME, and Hermine (who is now the only survivor). Around 1922, the family moved out of the convent and rented a house in the Christian Quarter of the Old City. Along with her siblings, Mary attended *St. Tarkmantchats* School in the *Vank*, and later the Jerusalem Girls' College, an Anglican prep school for girls, and became a teacher in 1938.

Known as Miss Mary, she was a memorable teacher – gracious, stimulating, always entertaining and always interested in bringing out the best in her students.

On January 14, 1945, she met her future husband, Yervant, in St. James Church in the *Vank*, who had come from Damascus to meet Mary. They were married on December 31, 1945.

Mary and Yervant initially lived in Damascus where Yervant had set up his medical practice. Following the untimely crib death of their daughter, Rebecca, their eldest son, Armen, was born. In 1948, Yervant moved his practice to Beirut. There, Mary gave birth to two more sons, Ara and Vatche.

Mary's years in Beirut were primarily devoted to the raising of her children. When the family emigrated to the United States in 1959, she continued that avocation with the same love and devotion. However, there was something new. Gradually, almost imperceptibly, she underwent a change. She looked around for experiences to challenge and stimulate her. She became an accomplished gardener and an accomplished COBOL Computer Programmer. She studied and practiced gourmet cooking; expert knitting and seamstressing; and she ran her own business managing a nursing agency out of her home.

She was deeply religious. She had a strong interest in the arts, something she instilled in all her children. She was an avid reader and loved painting and sculpture. She loved going to the movies. She also loved music.

She considered her grandchildren, David, Mary, Robyn, Melissa, Max and Morgan, to



be her greatest accomplishment and joy. Their mothers, Jean, Sharon and Margie, came to know and deeply love her as their own mother. □

Vahan Edward Benglian

Vahan Benglian, Sr., a life-long member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church (AMCC) of Havertown, PA, died on October 7, 2001 after a series of debilitating illnesses. A memorial service celebrating his life was held on October 27 at the AMCC. Its recent pastor and now Executive Director of the AMAA, the Rev. Jirair Sogomian, delivered a homily of reflection and inspiration.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Mr. Benglian was the past president of the Benglian Rug Co. of Philadelphia and Havertown. Throughout his many years, Mr. Benglian gave freely of his energies and substance to numerous charitable, educational, fraternal and church-related causes. Responsibilities included Trustees Chair, AMCC; Treasurer AEUNA; Commander, Knights of Vartan; Vice Chair, Armenian Sisters Academy; President, Havertown Rotary; and President, Christian Concern, UCC Penn. Southeast Conference.

Mr. Benglian's presence and positive attitude will be sorely missed by his church, his community, our Union at large and most keenly by his loving family. Surviving are son, Dr. Vahan and Mrs. Dikie Benglian and their daughter Laura of Toronto, Ontario; son Mr. David and Mrs. Barbara Benglian of Wynnewood, PA.; and a brother Mr. John Benglian of Palm City, FL. Sara (nee DeMirjian), his beloved wife of 55 years, predeceased him in January 1997.

Memorial gifts are being received by both the AMCC and the AMAA. □

Priscilla Arax Alexanian

Priscilla Arax (Yeghoyan) Alexanian beloved mother, grand-mother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, mentor and friend went into the presence of her Savior and Lord, in her sleep, on October 15, 2001. She was 95. Born June 11, 1906, in Harpoot, Turkey, she was one of eight sisters and three brothers. Her father was the much loved Rev. A. Yeghoyan, a pastor, teacher, evangelist and



counselor. Her mother, a musician, died when Priscilla was only ten. Her father remarried a Godly teacher, Elmas Yeghoyan, who remained her mother and the grandmother of all the descendants until her death in 1988.

During World War I, Priscilla's family was saved living in a German orphanage where father was also the chaplain, thus escaping the horrors of the massacres of Christian Armenians in 1915. Threats against her father finally forced them to flee to Syria and Lebanon, then by ship to Cuba, then New Orleans, and then by rail to Pasadena where relatives were waiting. Priscilla was 17 years old then.

Priscilla valued learning her entire life and graduated as Valedictorian, as did her sisters. She taught Spanish at the junior college there until her marriage to Manuel Alexanian, a young musician and graduate of Bible Institute of Los Angeles, in 1929.

They moved to Oakland where she encouraged Manuel to open his own automotive shop though the depression was beginning. They were founding members of the Oakland Bethany Armenian Congregational Church where she taught Sunday School many years, started the youth group with Manuel and a Family Sing Night. Joseph was born and three years later, Pauline. When Manuel suddenly died when she was 46, she went back to school and work to continue helping her son and her daughter attend Christian colleges.

Priscilla was adventurous, positive, loved to laugh, go on picnics, and tell stories; she could produce a delicious Armenian meal in what seemed like seconds and loved to open her home to many. But above all she valued learning, reading and studying the Word of God and spending time daily on her knees in communication with God. She modeled her Lord and was practical in her service to Him. She was gentle and considerate with a deep, practical wisdom that was sought out by many much younger than she was.

Priscilla moved to Pasadena in the late 60's to be with her loving family and became active in Pasadena Covenant Church.

A stroke caused her to be in a wheel chair, but she knew her family throughout her illness and remained keenly interested in what each grandchild was doing and studying. She influenced us all deeply: she was loved deeply, and will be deeply missed. Priscilla is survived by her son, Joseph Alexanian, and his wife, Esther, her daughter, Pauline and husband, John Khanjian, six loving grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, sisters and many nieces and nephews. Her life embodied Proverbs 3:5,6, "In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will direct your paths." □

Mary Arpiné Mullisen

Mary Mullisen was born *Arpiné Chakerian* to *Gron Chakerian* and *Paylazou Kourian Chakerian* on June 26, 1909 in Edirne (Adrianople), Turkey. She passed from this life to the next on October 17, 2001, in Dallas, Texas, at the age of 92.



There were four children in the *Chakerian* family: *Samuel*, *Stephan* who died at three months, *Arpiné (Sunshine)*, and *Tziatzan (Rainbow) Marie*, who died at 16 months.

In 1913, the family fled from Adrianople for fear of being massacred by the Turks and settled in Istanbul, where the family rebuilt their lives. Gron was a jeweler and acquired his own shop in a bazaar.

In Istanbul, the *Chakerian* family was relatively safe due to the presence of foreign missionaries and foreign diplomats in the capital city. But they were still Armenians – *Christians* in a land of *Islam*. And so, at age 50, sensing the instability in Turkey and Europe as a whole, Gron led the family, including an aunt, to America. They arrived at Ellis Island on May 18, 1921.

Marie and her family were members of the Armenian Evangelical Church on 34th Street in Manhattan. She excelled in school and immediately made friends that lasted through her lifetime. She received a full scholarship to Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

Marie's sponsor was the Vander Broek family. She stayed with this family, did some domestic chores, watched over their 4-year old boy, John, and attended classes. She studied French with the hope of someday becoming a teacher.

Sadly, Marie was unable to return to Hope College. Family conditions at home required her to work. First she was the secretary at the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York City. This was followed by secretarial work at the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Next she was hired in retail sales at Gimbels, a very large New York Department Store. She was their top salesperson.

Marie met Charles Mullisen over a shared hymnal at Marble Collegiate Church in uptown Manhattan. In less than a year, they were married at the Armenian Evangelical Church on May 2, 1943. The marriage between Charles and Marie was as perfect as can be found here on earth, and lasted for almost a half century

until Charles died in 1992.

Three children were born to Charles and Marie: Warren, Ronald and Eunice. For seven years, the family resided in Jackson Heights, NY, and 12 years in Little Neck, NY. Charles worked for American Airlines.

With Marie's encouragement, Charles transferred from La Guardia Airport in New York to Los Angeles International Airport in 1962. The family settled in Westchester, a Los Angeles suburb. The children grew up and left home, and Marie found herself with plenty of free time. Never content to just relax, she did volunteer work at nearby Centinela Valley Community Hospital.

Following Charles' retirement, they lived in Escondido and Santa Maria, California, and for the past 6 ½ years, in Dallas, Texas.

Marie is survived by her children: Warren Mullisen – Culver City, California, Ronald and Claire Mullisen – Los Osos, California, Eunice and Mike Gick – Garland, Texas. Her beloved grandchildren: Luke and Kathy Mullisen, Emily Mullisen, Ruth and Woody Gross, Renee Gick and Tim Gick. □

James R. Kaprielian

James Kaprielian "Kap" passed away on October 23, 2001 in Fresno, CA. He was born in Fresno on June 10, 1919, to Abraham Hagop Kaprielian and his wife Aznive (nee Kalemkerian). He was the youngest of three children. "Jimmy" attended Roosevelt Elementary and graduated from Central Union High School in 1937. He was a fruit farmer who owned and operated a grape vineyard from 1937 to 1942. During 1939, he attended Auto Mechanics classes at Fresno Technical. On May 9, 1942, Jim joined the Army. He attended Airplane and Engine School for four months in Weatherford, Oklahoma, receiving his Diploma on September 28, 1942. On November 10, 1943, he departed for the Asiatic Pacific Theater.

His military occupational specialty included: one month as a Private – Air Corps; Basic Training; two months as a Corporal – Airplane Engine Repairman; and 36 months as Staff Sergeant – Airplane Power Plant Mechanic where he served with the 9th Engine Overhaul Squadron as an Airplane Power Plant Mechanic in Calcutta, India.

Due to the "Convenience of the Government AR 615-365 15, December 1945, Demobilization", Jim was honorably discharged from the Army of the United States on February 8, 1946. He took home with him an American Campaign Medal, an Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, a Good Conduct Medal and a World

War II Victory Medal.

His first wife was Alice Judy Chakmakjian. He began working for over 27 years for the City of Fresno in Sewer Maintenance from 1956 to 1983. They had an infant son, Terrance Dick who survived three days. They went on to be the parents of three more children; Larry Kim, Rodney Allen and Juli Linn.

Jim was very active at Calvary Presbyterian Church. His second wife was Mary Danielian. Mr. Kaprielian is survived by his first wife Alice; their sons Larry and Rodney; and daughter Juli (Ward); son-in-law Matthew Ward; grandson Gabriel Tenaya Kaprielian (Larry's son); and the children of Matthew and Juli: Raychel Linn; Sarah Rae; Aaron Marcus and Jacob Matthias Ward. He is also survived by numerous Emerzian cousins.

A Memorial Service was held on October 29, 2001, at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church and a Military Graveside Burial was held on Monday at Ararat Cemetery on Belmont Avenue. □

Rosemary Atamian

Rosemary Atamian, a Vice President of Filene's Department Stores, died of cancer Tuesday in her home in Watertown. She was 46.

Ms. Atamian was known by her nickname of Candy. She was born in Worcester and grew up in Uxbridge. A graduate of Pine Manor and Bentley Colleges, she had been employed by Filene's since 1978, when she became an Assistant Buyer in its home division. She had been Vice President of the company since 1996.

She enjoyed golf and traveling and was a member of the AMAA and the Anti-Defamation League.

To AMAA Candy was best known with her active involvement in the Orphan and Child Care Committee Boston branch. Through her volunteer services, the Boston group each year organized special fundraiser to support the children in Armenia and Karabagh. Candy was always there at the fundraiser with her smile and quiet but hard work. She insisted on attending the last fundraiser which was held on October 18, 2001. Being very sick she was helped to just have a glimpse at the event. She passed away a few days later.

She leaves her parents, Elias and Mary (Thompson) of Worcester; two brothers, Elias of Worcester and Edward C. of Shrewsbury; and her grandmother, Rose of Boston. Most of all a legacy of kindness and dedicated service.

A funeral was held at 10 a.m. in the Armenian Church of our Saviour in Worcester. Burial was in Hope Cemetery in Worcester. □

Outreach for Outfits



The Armenia Summer Camp and Christmas Committee thanks all who generously contributed towards our successful "**Search for Sneakers**" campaign last year. As a result of your generosity, we were able to send over 2000 pairs of sneakers to the children of Armenia and Karabagh. This year, we appeal to you again towards our drive for clothing "**Outreach for Outfits**".

We, in the U.S. have the problem of choosing which of the many clothes to put on our children. Whereas in Armenia dressing children poses a daily problem, due to the lack of funds to purchase clothing.

The 10,000 children who attend AMAA Summer Camps in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia lack the appropriate attire to attend camp. What they have are worn out beyond repair.

This year's campaign, "**Outreach for Outfits**", will focus on providing **new clothing** for **boy and girl campers ages 8 to 16**.

The camps provide the children an opportunity to get away from the crowded conditions in their homes, eat nutritious meals and enjoy comfortable beds. The campers participate in arts and crafts, skits, music and sports activities. Most important, they learn about Jesus and their Christian heritage through Bible stories.

We kindly urge you to participate in this year's "**Outreach for Outfits**" by providing new clothing or making a donation towards this project, which will bring much joy, warmth and comfort to our children and their families.

Please send your donations to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 by April 15, 2002.

Yes, I would like to provide clothing for children attending AMAA camps in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia.

Enclosed please find ----- U.S. dollars.

Name -----

Address -----

(Please make tax-deductible checks payable to AMAA, earmarked "Outreach for Outfit")

Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652

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